ADVANCES IN MATHEMATICS 26, 97 (1977)

Book Reviews

M. G. KARPOVSKY, *Finite Orthogonal Series in the Design of Digital Devices*, Wiley, 1976, 250 pp. The analysis and synthesis of Boolean functions by expansion into the Walsh–Fourier series is an idea whose time has come.

V. S. HUZURBAZAR, *Sufficient Statistics*, Dekker, 1976, 270 pp. Interesting treatment of Sir Harold Jeffreys' invariance theory.

A. R. ANDERSON, *et al.*, *The Logical Enterprise*, Yale, 1975, 260 pp. A Festschrift for F. B. Fitch, stressing deviant logics.

C. BERG, AND G. FORST, *Potential Theory on Locally Compact Abelian Groups*, Springer, 1975, 197 pp. Beautifully written and accessible to anyone with a course in functional analysis. The probabilistic connections are not explicitly stressed.

J. FANG, *The Illusory Infinite*, Paideia, 1976, 351 pp. The author is a courageous and acute thinker. He brings to the limelight a host of problems which the academic philosophical establishment ignores in its unattainable quest for the kind of precision that can only belong to mathematics.

S. K. CAMPBELL, *Flaws and Fallacies in Statistical Thinking*, Prentice–Hall, 1974, 200 pp. The author proposes as a curious novelty the notion that statistics is a branch of mathematics designed to gather arguments in favor of conclusions of which we are already privately convinced. He does not realize that this has always been the avowed purpose of statistics, and that it is what makes statistics really useful.

S. STENLUND, *Combinators, λ-Terms, and Proof Theory*. Reidel, 1972, 184 pp. A superb introduction to combinatory logic, which anyone can read with gusto like a novel.

J. DUSKIN, *Simplicial Methods and the Interpretation of "Triple" Cohomology*, Amer. Math. Soc., 1975, 139 pp. The theory of triples, and the purely combinatorial definition it leads to for very general classes of universal algebra, is probably one of the permanent contributions of category theory to mathematics. In this setting, even classical homology becomes clear and "necessary"—in the Hegelian sense. The author has done an admirable job.

L. NIRENBERG, *Lectures on Partial Differential Equations*, Amer. Math. Soc., 1972, 58 pp. In partial differential equations, Louis Nirenberg is "maestro di color che sanno." At last he has graciously condescended to give the public a glimpse of the glittering beauties of this central subject, which is becoming esoteric only by lack of adequate expositions.

M. STEINER, *Mathematical Knowledge*, Cornell, 1975, 164 pp. Urbane, scholarly, and unusually intelligent writing in a field ordinarily distinguished by a latter-day obscurantism, dedicated on the altar of a hallucinated precision which is as alien to philosophy as writing proofs in Alcaic meter is to mathematics.

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